THE ANSWER of Captain STEPHEN RICH, Commander of the STATE Packet Barques, and Poſt-Maſter of *Dublin*, to a ſcandalous Information of *Evan Vaughan*, late Poſt-Maſter of the ſame City.

1. THat on the third of *July* 1646. a Packet of Letters were delivered unto Captain *Stephen Rich*, by Captain *Mathew Wood*, to be tranſported from *Ireland* to the Parliament of *England*, with Order for all poſſible diligence, and diſpatch, intimating that the Letters were of great concernment touching the Publick-weale and ſafety of both Kingdomes, but moſt in Particular concerning the ſad condition of the godly and well-affected Engliſh Proteſtants in *Dublin*, that Captain *Rich* out of diſtruſt, that ſomething might be written to his diſadvantage, did break open that Packet, and did not deliver the Letters, but threw them behind his Cabine where being found by ſome well-affected of the Company they took Copies of them, which I humbly preſent to your honours view.

To the firſt this defendant ſaith;

That he was not Poſt-maſter at the ſame time when Captain *Mathew Wood* delivered to this Defendant the Letters in the Information mentioned, or intended and therefore conceiveth himſelfe under favour not to be chargeable therewith, and humbly prayeth the Judgement of this honourable Committee, whether he ſhall be compelled to make any further Anſwer to this particular Charge being charged againſt him, as a miſdemeanour in his Imployment before he had it; Howſoever hee this Defendant, for full ſatisfaction of this honourable Committee, ſaith

and acknowledgeth, That true it is, that about that time hee received some Letters from Captain *Wood*, which he desired might be sent according to the direction thereof; Whereupon this Defendant out of his forwardnesse to further any matter conducing to the good of the State, did promise to give them the same Conveyance with his own Letters. At which time this Defendant having Order to observe the Command of Collonell *Mitton*, was at his arrivall at *Holy-head* sent for into *Carnarvan*-shire, where he was forced to attend his duty, whereby hee was constrained to commit the Conveyance of the said Letters with his own Letters, to the Care of the Master of the Ship, and the Minister men found honest in as great a trust, to be sent by the first opportunitie, that could be, no Post being then setled at *Holy-head*. But this Defendant doth deny that he broke open any of the said Letters delivered to him by the said Captain *Wood*, or had any distrust that any thing was written therein to his disadvantage, nor had he any cause so to doe, and saith that if any of the said Ships Company did open any of the said Letters, or took any Copies thereof, the same is altogether unknown unto him, this Defendant; neither did, or doth he this Defendant know what any of the said Letters did concern. And truly if the party who pretends to be privie thereunto had acquainted him this Defendant therewith, hee this defendant would have examined the same, and punished the Offenders, and therefore conceives the said party was much to blame to conceale the same all this while, being three years, if he knew the State was concerned therein. And also hopeth, that he shall not suffer for any miscarriage therein, it being in his absence during his employment in the Publick businesse, he having done his uttermost endeavour for the Conveyance thereof.

2. That in *August* 1647. Captaine *Rich* came to *Holy-head* with the Post-Barque where a Packet from the Parliament stayed for transportation but he left the Packet there, and went with the Barque to *Chester* water upon his own occasions, by which meanes the States service was neglected, and the Barque like to be lost.

To the second Charge, this defendant saith, that about the time therein mentioned, he this Defendant was at *Holy-head*, to see if there were any Packet there from the State, and finding none, but only the ordinary Letter Packet in a leather bagge, This Defendant conceived it his duty rather to goe to *Chester* to see if Master *Walley*, the States Agent had any service to command him for the Publick, then to returne only with the Merchants Letters, which this Defendant then left to be carryed by another Barque, then bound for *Dublin* from *Holy-head*. But this

Defendant

Defendant denieth that he went to *Cheſter*-water upon his own occaſions, or otherwiſe then upon the diſcharge of the duty of his place for the publike ſervice, wherein if his Barque had miſcarryed, this Defendant muſt have borne the loſſe of it himſelf.

3. That in *October* 1648. The Barques was Commanded by Collonel *Jones* for *Cheſter*-water to bring over the Packets, but contrarily went to *Holy-head*, where the Maſter took a fraight, and returned to *Dublin* without a Packet, by which means the Packet were left at *Cheſter*, The Governour wanting his Intelligence to the great prejudice of the State.

To the third Charge this Defendent ſaith that at the time therein mentioned the Stage was ſetled at *Holyhead*, and the Packets there conſtantly received. So as their is no probability, that the States Letters ſhould be ſtayed at *Cheſter* for the Poſt Barques to carry them, when of courſe they were to be ſent by Land to *Holyhead*.

4. That in *December* 1648. The Informat delivered a Packet to *Daniell Nixon* the Maſter of the Poſt Barque, with Command from the Governour to goe for *Cheſter*-water withall poſſible expedition, but *Nixon* contrary to Order loſt that Night Tyde, being then buſie about affaires for Captain *Rich* or his own advantage, the Barque being laden with heavy goods could not get off till full Sea, whereof the Informat getting knowledge in the next Morning, and perceiving the Barque was bound for *Holy-head*, was compelled to ſend the Packet aboard, Captain *Clarke* then riding in the Bay of *Dublin*, to the hazard of looſing both Packet and Boatemen by ſtormy weather, which if the Informat had not done the State might have loſt that Intelligence, the Pyrates being then buſie at Sea.

To the Fourth he this Defendent ſaith, That he doth not know of any loſſe of a Tyde as thereby is pretended, nor that his Maſter the ſaid *Nixon* loſt his Tyde or neglected any Commands from Collonel *Jones*, and ſaith he was not Ingaged to receive Commands from the Informer, nor did his Inſtructions require him to attend the private but the publike Packet, yet in caſe that part of the Information had been true, the Informer confeſſeth the weather grew foule, and the Pyrates did infeſt the paſſage, which might be good Inducements to the Maſter at that time, not to run head long into danger, and this Defendent ſaith he doth not know that *Nixon* was then buſied about any of the affairs of this Defendant.

5. That

5. That not long after Captain *Rich* ſhould have ſent the Poſt Barque to *Cheſter*; but for his own advantage without this Informates knowledge ſent her to *Holy-head* to unlade goods kept aboard her two months, and left the Packet behind, and ſtayed at *Holy-head* three weeks and went thence to *Cheſter*, and loaded with Coales, and thence returned with the Packet of the 16 of *January*, and put in againe to *Holy-head* the Wind being faire and tooke in more goods, by which meanes the Barque was taken, the Packet loſt and thoſe aboard undone.

To the Fifth charge this Defendant ſaith, He knoweth nothing thereof, he being then here attending the State, neither did he ever heare that Collonel *Jones* did Command the Barques for *Cheſter*-water, and ſaith he conceiveth it was his duty to deliver the Packets at *Holy-head*, only ſince the Stage was there ſetled, and ſaith if the then Maſter of the ſaid Barque did in his this Defendants abſence any of the matters herein charged as againſt this Defendent, the ſame was without his this Defendants knowledge or privity, and this Defendant is thereby become a great ſufferer in the loſſe of his Barque, which coſt him aſmuch as a whole years wages amount unto, and as to the Prejudice pretended to be done to the Publicks ſervice in any of the particulars here complained of, this Defendant hopeth it ſhall be taken as in truth it is a meere ſurmiſe of his adverſaries to ſupplant him in his employment. Since neither Lieutenant Generall *Jones* nor Maſter *Walley* did ever queſtion the ſame to this Defendants knowledge, nor acquainted this Defendant therewith, or complained to the State therein, but on the contrary have given Teſtimony of this Defendants readineſſe and dilligence at all times to obſerve their Commands. *Vide* their Certificates.

6. That the ſeverall Packets of the 6. 13 20 and 27. of *February* 1648. Did not arrive at *Dublin* till the 23 of *April* 1649. For want of a Poſt Barque to tranſport them, notwithſtanding the ſaid *Rich* being bound at all times to have a Barque in readineſſe for the ſervice.

As to the Sixth charge as to the long ſtay of the ſeverall Packets thereinmentioned this Defendant ſaith they were only the Merchants Packets, and howſoever could not receive a quicker conveyance from this Defendant, if he would have taken upon him the carriage thereof out of curteſie as formerly, for that both the Defendant Barques, aſwell, as that which the Informers have newly hired for his own uſe, were all three taken, One of this Defendants Barques called the *Hare* being carried to *Wexford*, and the other a Catch called the *Iacob* in *Dublin*, being carried to the Iſle of *Man*. Whereupon this Defendant bought the Catch againe,

gaine, and provided the Speedwell into the Hares place, both which doe constantly attend the States service, as appeareth by both the Masters Oaths herewith presented. *Vide* the Affidavits.

7. That Captain *Rich*, did contract with the State to keep two able Barques for their service only, but did keep but one for fourteen months together, yet hath received his whole stipend for two, and that one Barque did make but one Voyage in the States service from the 30. of *September* 1648. to the eight of *April* 1649. And whereas the said Barques should at all times be in readinesse for the States service, and at no time unballanced, or laden and cumbred with Merchants goods, and yet whither he had one or two, they were alwayes unballasted of purpose to take in Merchants goods or Coales for his own best advantage.

To the seventh charge this Defendant saith, That he ever kept two sufficient Barques for the use of the State, save only in that time that both his said Barques were carryed away as aforesaid and then he provided two Barques for the said Service withall the expedition he could, but denyeth that the same were unballanced at any time when there was occasion to use them for the States service, and as to that part of the charge concerning taking in of Goods aboard, this Defendant humbly offereth and saith, that although it bring in no profit to the Owner, yet it was never denyed the Servant, that whilst the Barques did attend, and before the Packet came to hand, the men might take in some Truncks or Goods, which perhaps might produce for their advantage, and incouragement, sometimes ten shillings, or more or lesser as occasion offered; And the same was the Informers own practise in Master *Witherings* time, when he hired Barques for the Merchants Letters as by the Contracts may appeare, and though sometimes, when the Barques goe for *Chester*-water, and the Packets were not ready, the Barques might take in some Coales to pleasure this Defendant, or some Friends, yet was no prejudice done thereby to the States Service, as by Master *Wallyes* Letter to Master *Frost*, ready to be produced may appeare.

All which this Defendant by way of answer to the said Information humbly offereth to the Grave Consideration of this Honourable Committee, and humbly craveth the Judgement thereof, he having always upon all occasions used his utmost diligence to performe the duty of his place, and you having received frequent testimonies of his care and faithfullnesse therein, from Lieutenant Generall *Ivnes*, and also from *Charls Wallev* the States on this side, and therefore hopeth, that this Accusation contrived meerly by the Informer to supplant this Defendent in his Imployment shall receive no favourable Construction.

Right Honourable,

IN addition to what is further offered in other my Letters of this Date, I make bold herein to represent the great neglect of transmitting hither in convenient time, Letters that concerne us here, which is a very great disadvantage to the service, besides what others thereby suffer in their private Interests, opportunity for passages have been let slip whereby we have heard nothing thence sometime in a month together, During Captain Stephen Rich *his attendance here, it hath been otherwise, whom I desire to be speedily dispatched hither for looking after that employment wherein he is Interessed, he hath been one very forward and dilligent in your service here, therein deserving much favour and incouragement, This I make bold to offer to your Honours Consideration together with what is in my former Letters offered tending to the advantage of the State, and their Interests here, So remaining,*

Dublin Novem. 10. 1647.

Your Honours humble and faithfull Servant,
Mich: Iones.

To the Right Honourable the Committee of Lords and Commons at *Derby*-house these.

Nono

Nono Die menſis Novembris, Anno Dom. 1648.

May it Pleaſe your Honours,

WEe whoſe names are ſubſcribed having all good experience and knowledge of the good Service performed by Captain *Stephen Rich*, in theſe parts for the Parliament, who hath been much employed and truſted therein; Doe humby Certifie, That in the time of our tedious Leigure at *Cheſter*, being neceſſitated of a Veſſell to guard the River againſt the City without which wee could not have kept the City from reliefe, Wee intreated Captain *Rich* to furniſh a Gally ſpeedily which he ſuddenly performed, by repairing and trimming up of an old Bottome of a Veſſell, And for the defraying the Charge thereof, Directions was ſent forth to the Sequeſtrators of *Wirrall* hundred, who having not moneys in their hands to pay for the ſame, the ſaid Captain out of his good affection and forwardneſſe to the ſervice, layed out his own money, and bought all neceſſaries thereto, as Dales, Iron Boults, Anchors, Cables, Sayles, Ropes, Maſts, Pitch, Tarre, and Oacum, cauſed his own Carpenter to work upon her, beſides his own extraordinary care and paines therein; Fitted likewiſe about thirty men aboard with Armes, Ordnance, Powder and Shott, without any charge at all to a Country, and as yet hath not received for all his ſaid extraordinary coſt, care, and paines, any ſatisfaction towards his ſaid diſburſments, As by the Certificate from the Sequeſtrators to whom our Warrant aforeſaid was directed appeareth, beſides, hee was very faithfull and Serviceable with his men upon the Land, both when we made our Batteries againſt the City walls, and ſtorming the ſame, to the hazard of his own life, and loſſe of ſome of his men. As alſo at all other times when he was required did much good ſervice, by managing and maintaining the Bridge of Boats over the River, which was very advantageous to the preſent Service; For all which, as he affirmeth to us, and wee verily believe hath not received any ſatisfaction. And we make bold further to certifie, that in all the time of his very neere three years ſervice, we never had any complaint of the Countrey of any injury done by him or his men, So that we can do no leſſe, his ſervice being ſuch, and charge ſo great but repreſent it to your Honours, Humbly leaving his merits and rewards unto your more mature conſideration.

Tho. Stanley.
Robert Duckenfield.
J. Bruen.
Henry Birkhened.
William Daneis.
Roger Wilbraham. vid.
Ro. Gregge.
Edward Bradſhaw.

Worthy

Worthy Sir,

THese Lines are onely to preſent my thanks and ſervice to you, having the opportunity of ſo good conveyance, as the bearer, my good friend, Captain Stephen Rich, one that in all the time of my employment, I have obſerved, that at all times, upon all occaſions, for the publick Service of the State, and to expedite the Service of Ireland. no man more induſtrious and forward then he, and ſince he had the abſolute intereſt and command of the Poſt Barques. For the Conveyance of the States Packets, there hath been no neglect or loſſe of time, nor cauſe of Complaint and if his occaſions may have the countenance of your favour: I preſume the merit of his good ſervice will be your inducement to doe him good. Sir, I confeſſe, I am too prodigall of your favour, and too uncivill to trouble you for my ſelfe and friends, but I preſume your goodneſſe will forgive it in him that will ever remaine

16. Auguſt 1649.

Your moſt thank-full faithfull ſervant,

Cha. Walley.

For my moſt worthy friend *Gualter Froſt* Eſquire, Secretary to the right Honourable, the great Councell of State.